

SSA VR Cost Reimbursement and Ticket to Work

March 16, 2009

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Areas to be Covered

- The Pre July 21, 2008 regulation Ticket Program and VR Reimbursement Programs
- Key Changes with Regulations
- Ticket Process
- Revenue potential of Ticket program
- New partnership options
- Provider Resources

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U.S. General Accounting Office Findings

- Less than 1% of SSDI and SSI beneficiaries attain paid employment enabling them to be self-sufficient
- One-third of the people who leave the rolls return in 3 years
- In one half of one percent of those individuals were to attain self-supporting employment, savings would total \$3.5 billion

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Key Changes with New Regulations as of July 21, 2008

- Makes significant improvement to Ticket program payment options
- De-links Ticket participation with VR cost reimbursement program. Ticket assignment no longer necessary.
- Allows VR to partner with Employment Networks so VR can bill cost reimbursement and the Employment Network can receive some (not all) Ticket payments "Partnership Plus"
- SSA will pay more money for employment outcomes earlier in process.

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What is the VR Cost Reimbursement System?

- Pre-dates Ticket Program but blended into Ticket Program by SSA
- Only available to State VR programs
- VR receives reimbursement for costs, if beneficiary works nine months above SGA (\$980 per month in 2009).
- Generally employment at SGA has to start within 12 months of case closure
- VR can bill for actual case costs plus a monthly tracking and administrative fee.

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What is an Employment Network?

Any agency who enters into a contract with SSA to assume responsibility for the coordination and delivery of appropriate employment, employment activities, and other support services under the Ticket to Work Program.

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New SVR Status

State VR agencies will have two options:

- EN Payment = Assign Ticket
- Traditional Cost Reimbursement = In Use-SVR
 - Either way, the Ticket-holder receives protection from a Continuing Disability Review (CDR)

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Timely Progress Review

Maximus will conduct a progress review at the conclusion of every 12 months of

- Ticket use or
- In-use SVR Status

To determine if a beneficiary is making the expected progress toward self-sufficiency (Self-supporting employment)

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Summary of Ticket Process

- SSA Recipient between age of 18-64 receives Ticket in the mail.
- Individual can use their Ticket with a State VR Agency or an EN
- Employment Plan is developed and consumer signs their Ticket by completing the SSA 1365.

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Payment Options

- VR Agencies have Cost Reimbursement Option
- Ticket Options are
 - Outcome – where cash benefits end completely and \$22,620 to \$23,652 can be paid out
 - Milestones/Outcome – Where payments can be made earlier in process but total payments \$20,299 to 21,299 (handout provided)

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Conditions with Tickets

- ENs can choose between Outcome and Milestone/Outcome method on their annual anniversary
- VR Agencies can choose on a case by case basis between Ticket Payment or Cost Reimbursement.

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New Ticket Outcome-Milestone System Phase One

| Earnings Milestones | Payment SSI | Payment SSDI |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| \$350 for one month | \$1,177 | \$1,177 |
| \$700 for three months | \$1,177 | \$1,177 |
| \$700 for six months | \$1,177 | \$1,177 |
| \$700 for nine months | \$1,177 | \$1,177 |
| Total Phase 1 Milestones | \$4,708 | \$4,708 |

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New Ticket Outcome-Milestone System Phase Two

Phase Two

■ Gross earnings \$980 per month

- SSDI Milestone Payment \$353 per month for eleven months for \$3,883 total
- SSI Milestone Payment \$203 per month for eighteen months for \$3,654 Total

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New Ticket Outcome-Milestone System Phase Three

■ Earnings above \$980 per month and SSI/SSDI cash benefit at zero

- SSDI \$353 per month for 36 months for a total of \$12,708
- SSI \$203 per month for 60 months for a total of \$12,180

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Options in working with Providers

There are three options.

- Option One: "Partnership Plus"
- Option Two: SD VR assigns Ticket and splits Ticket payments for joint customers
- Option Three: Provider is EN; assigns the Ticket; provides the services directly to consumer; and can be a joint case with VR for guidance and Counseling

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Option One: Partnership Plus

- VR opens a case and bills for cost reimbursement.
- The provider must be an EN
- The provider accepts Ticket assignment
- SSA allows the provider to bill for Phase II and Phase III milestone outcomes
- SSA will not pay Phase I milestones for Partnership Plus cases (Because they are reimbursing VR for upfront payments).

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Option Two: Split of Ticket Payments

- VR accepts Ticket assignment
- VR can bill for Phase I, II and III payments
- VR takes 100% of Milestones 1 & 2 of Phase I.
- VR splits remaining payments 50/50 with the Providers.
- Payments to providers can be processed on a quarterly basis.

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Option Three: Provider Assigns Ticket

- Provider is approved EN
- EN works with consumer to develop Plan and assigns Ticket to Provider
- Consumer provides the services at their cost and collects the reimbursement directly
- Consumer can be a joint case of EN and VR

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Option Two is being Recommended

- Promotes partnership between VR and Providers
- Will bring in more money into SD for Provider and VR
- Promotes Increased earnings for Consumers
- Promotes continued employment for consumer

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Actual Ticket Cases Submitted

| | | | | Wage \$ | Est \$ | Ticket Income | |
|---|-------------------------|-------|------------|---------|----------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| | Provider | CMID | Case Cost | Monthly | Ticket | DRS | Provider |
| 1 | Mitchell ATC and/or MHC | 46539 | \$2,537.52 | \$628 | \$1,177 | \$1,177 | \$0 Ruby Tuesday |
| 2 | BHW | 43428 | \$11.00 | \$693 | \$1,177 | \$1,177 | \$0 Casa Real |
| 3 | Lori Broton or SEMHC | 46989 | \$1,333.52 | \$568 | \$1,177 | \$1,177 | \$0 Apple Tree Children's Ctr |
| 4 | Human Service Agency | 46766 | \$2,794.98 | \$867 | \$4,708 | \$3,531 | \$1,177 Hy Vee |
| 5 | Lewis & Clarke MHC | 46149 | \$2,516.08 | \$663 | \$1,177 | \$1,177 | \$0 Alltel |
| 6 | SESDAC | 47279 | \$1,880.50 | \$710 | \$4,708 | \$3,531 | \$1,177 Hy Vee |
| 7 | SESDAC | 44841 | \$1,770.00 | \$710 | \$4,708 | \$3,531 | \$1,177 Hy Vee |
| 8 | SEMHC | 46833 | \$2,700.00 | \$775 | \$4,708 | \$3,531 | \$1,177 Hy Vee |
| | | | \$15,533.6 | | \$23,540 | \$18,832 | \$4,708 |

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If Wages were Increase?

| Current Wages | | | | Monthly | Increased Wages | | | |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| Wage \$ | Est \$ | Ticket Income | | Increased | Wage \$ | Est \$ | Ticket Income | |
| Monthly | Ticket | DRS | Provider | Wage | Monthly | Ticket | DRS | Provider |
| \$628 | \$1,177 | \$1,177 | \$0 | \$72 | \$700 | \$4,708 | \$3,531 | \$1,177 |
| \$693 | \$1,177 | \$1,177 | \$0 | \$7 | \$700 | \$4,708 | \$3,531 | \$1,177 |
| \$568 | \$1,177 | \$1,177 | \$0 | | \$568 | \$1,177 | \$1,177 | \$0 |
| \$867 | \$4,708 | \$3,531 | \$1,177 | \$113 | \$980 | \$21,299 | \$11,827 | \$9,473 |
| \$663 | \$1,177 | \$1,177 | \$0 | \$37 | \$700 | \$4,708 | \$3,531 | \$1,177 |
| \$710 | \$4,708 | \$3,531 | \$1,177 | | \$710 | \$4,708 | \$3,531 | \$1,177 |
| \$710 | \$4,708 | \$3,531 | \$1,177 | | \$710 | \$4,708 | \$3,531 | \$1,177 |
| \$775 | \$4,708 | \$3,531 | \$1,177 | | \$775 | \$4,708 | \$3,531 | \$1,177 |
| | \$23,540.00 | \$18,832.00 | \$4,708.00 | | | \$50,724.00 | \$34,189.50 | \$16,534.50 |

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How would a Provider start doing this?

- Contact Bernie Grimme 605-773-6284 or Bernie.Grimme@state.sd.us to enter into an agreement.
- Are you an EN or not?
- Contract Generated for signatures.
- Start Plan for Sustaining Employment on cases.

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Plan for Sustaining Employment

- Critical document to initiate cost sharing
- Identify Responsibilities
- Identify Support Services
- Signatures & copies
- Agreement can be cancelled

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Resources for Providers

- <http://www.yourtickettowork.com/training>
- <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/aboutticket.html>
- <http://www.cessi.net/ttw/>
- Benefits Specialists Services
<http://www.bhssc.org/content/services/wipa.htm>

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Questions?

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